Fixing responsibility of Growth of Slums in Delhi on SHOs

320. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make local Station House Officer of Delhi Police responsible for the growth of slums in his area in the national capital territory of Delhi as has been suggested by the Delhi High Court;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to implement the proposal and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) There is no such proposal to make SHO responsible for prevention of the growth of slums.

(b) Not applicable in view of above.

(c) The Delhi Administration is of the firm opinion that the primary responsibility for protecting land is of land owning agency and the zonal officials of MCD, NDMC, DDA and field staff. The Delhi High Court in its order dated 15-4-1993 has desired to know the designation of the officials who would be made responsible for ensuring that no new jhuggi-jhopri emerges in Delhi. The High Court has suggested that SHOs of Delhi Police be made responsible to prevent growth of slums. However, the matter was considered in the Administration and accordingly the High Court was informed through an affidavit that the primary responsibility of protecting land rests with the land owning agencies and also zonal officers, MCD, NDMC, DDA and the field staff.

Communal Violence in Bhatkal Town of Uttar Kannada

321. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was communal violence in Bhatkal town in Uttar Kannada district recently;

(b) if so, the reason for such a communal violence and remedial steps taken by Government to see that such a communal violence does not recur in future; and

(c) the persons suffered and compensation, if any, paid by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Car festival of Lord Maruti was celebrated on April 1, 1993. While the procession was to conclude in the evening, some anti-social elements pelted stones on the processionists as a result of which minor incidents of communal nature took place. The situation was quickly controlled by the Police and prohibitory orders u/s 144 Cr.P.C. were promulgated in Bhatkal town. Police had arranged intensive patrolling and picketing and a close watch was kept on the situation. 33 persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.

(c) 37 persons were affected by the incident. An amount of Rs. 1.5 lakh has been paid to the persons who were injured and who lost their property.

Vessels smuggling arms from Pakistan to India

322. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received information that two vessels laden with arms and ammunition have left Pakistan in the second week of April, 1993 and were scheduled to off-load the consignment on the East Coast;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to apprehend these boats;

(c) whether the coast-guard of most of the East Mediterranean, Persian Gulf and Red Sea Region have been issued an alert to watch out for vessels attempting to smuggle explosives to India; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent influx of arms and explosives to the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) There is no specific information in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government have alerted all State Governments as well as the concerned Central Agencies to enforce enhanced surveillance in a fully integrated manner, to counter smuggling activities.

Threat to dissolve Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council

323. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) has threatened to dissolve the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and revive the demand for Gorkhaland; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) had recently threatened to launch an agitation for a separate State of Gorkhaland and rescind the concept of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council However, the Govt. of West Bengal and Shri Subash Ghisingh, President of the GNFL, are holding negotiations for resolving the problem.

Smugglers/Drug Mafias Instrumental in Bombay Blasts

324. DR. SANJAYA SINH :

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that smugglers from outside India and Drug Mafias have a major role in the recent Bombay blasts as per the news-item entitled "Was it smuggled Wrath", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 17th March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) While the investigations are continuing the results of the inquiries so far clearly indicate that the conspiracy has been hatched by Pakistan in conjunction with some of the known smugglers and members of the underworld, who were responsible for procurement of sizeable quantities of explosives as well as arms and ammunitions. With a view to prevent recurrence of similar incidents, the Government have alerted all State Governments as well as the concerend Central Agencies to enforce enhanced surveillance in a fully integrated manner, to counter smuggling activities.

Fire at Lal Chowk, Srinagar

325. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of loss of life and property as a result of fire at Lal Chowk, Srinagar on April 10, 1993;

(b) whether the cause of fire has been ascertained, if so, what are the details thereof;